

# Short review of mobile learning

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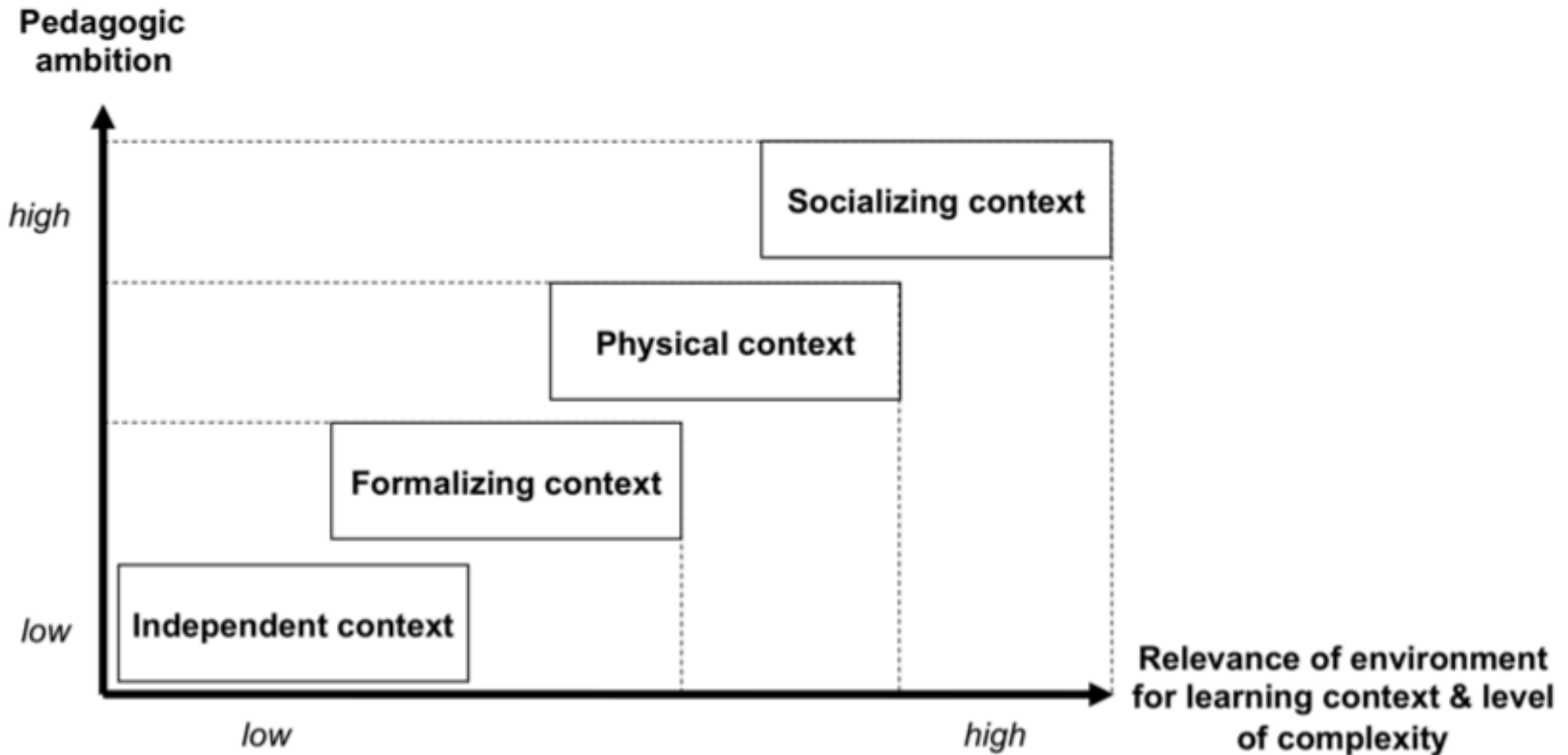
# Background

- Two keys ideas:
  - Context
  - Activity (or practice)
- This lecture places *context* and *tool use to support practice* as central to any conceptualisation of mobile learning

# Why?

- Techno-centric view
- *Critiques*
  - Mobile learning has failed to adequately exploit “the social practices by which [the] new affordances [of mobile devices] become powerful educational interventions” (Roschelle, 2003)

# Context from Frohberg et al (2009)



# Context and mobile learning

- Tolmie (2001) talks about ICT having to fit within “pre-existing contexts of educational and social activity... outcome[s] in terms of both pattern of use and learning depends on how they fit in with these”

# Context as interaction (Dourish)

- The basis for understanding context is “as an outcome of **embodied practice**”
- It is not “a stable description of the world”
- From: Dourish (2004)

# Context as interaction

- Prevailing view with the ML community
- “Context then is a central construct of mobile learning. It is continually created by people in interaction with other people, with their surroundings and with everyday tools” (Kukulska Hulme et al., 2009)

# Context as interaction

- Context is relevant to particular settings, particular instances of action, and particular parties to that action
  - If we take the classroom example, mobile learning disrupts each of these
- Context arises from the activity. Context isn't just “there,” but is *actively produced, maintained and enacted* in the course of the activity at hand



# Mobile learning for development

- Need to gain a deep understanding of existing settings, practices, cultures
- Often this means designing “from the bottom-up”
  - A challenge but an extremely interesting one!

# Readings

- Frohberg, D., Göth, C. & Schwabe, G. (2009) Mobile Learning projects - a critical analysis of the state of the art, *Journal of Computer Assisted Learning*, 25, 307-331 (pre-print:  
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- Kukulska-Hulme, A., Sharples, M., Milrad, M., Arnedillo-Sánchez, I., & Vavoula, G. (2009) Innovation in Mobile Learning: A European Perspective. *International Journal of Mobile and Blended Learning*, 1(1), pp. 13–35.  
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- Roschelle, J. (2003) Unlocking the learning value of wireless mobile devices, *Journal of Computer Assisted Learning*, 19(3), 260-272  
<http://is.gd/3zKRMi>
- Tolmie, A. (2001) Examining learning in relation to the contexts of use of ICT, *Journal of Computer Assisted Learning*, 17, 235–241  
<http://eprints.ioe.ac.uk/346>

# Contact & Downloads

- Email
  - [n.winters@ioe.ac.uk](mailto:n.winters@ioe.ac.uk)
- Slides
  - <http://mobimooc.wikispaces.com/Week+3+-+Mobile+learning+for+development+%28ML4D%29>
  - <http://www.lkl.ac.uk/niall/teaching.html>